



The Deepening World Crisis Calls for a Real Class Struggle!

On this occasion more than ever our focus is not on a workers' day of celebration but on the attacks on workers.

The world crisis which has produced enormous economic devastation in the financial sector and the real economy in the last few years has not finished inflicting its evil consequences on the international proletariat. The economy is not reviving, unemployment is increasing, and with unemployment, so is job insecurity. The young are hit most and in the most serious cases almost half sit at home whilst the others fight for temporary jobs at starvation wages. Investment is not taking off, the profits crisis and the low rate of profit continue to stimulate speculation on the raw materials markets – headed by oil – but particularly cereals like wheat with the inevitable consequence of an increase in prices of basic goods. In the case of less developed countries these have been at the root of the recent impoverishment of growing masses of working class families, despite the recent bread revolts.

The welfare state – where it exists or used to exist – continues to be progressively dismantled making access to school, healthcare, pensions, and unemployment benefit more difficult. The poor, who swell the ranks of the dispossessed have to survive, somehow or other, below the poverty threshold.

The rich capitalist countries are no longer able to guarantee what they could before to the workers but are forced to reduce wages, jobs and welfare.

In the less developed countries the wave of crisis is generating in the very same geographical area, at the very same time and with the same intensity, a once in a lifetime rebellion against hunger and poverty. The most tragic effect of this is the exodus of hundreds of thousands of refugees who desperately try to escape unemployment which has reached unbearable levels, the widening poverty and civil wars which inevitably flare up like tinder at the first spark in situations like this. It is a migration which drives the workers from the poorest capitalist areas towards the richest even if they are also prey to the very same crisis and therefore getting poorer. They flee, carrying the burden of so many false illusions, and the sure and certain fate of being rejected and obliged to submit to the most degrading exploitation in the fields, harvesting tomatoes and potatoes, without lodgings, without welfare, living like animals in captivity. That's if all goes well, otherwise they find their tomb on the open sea before the end of their voyage.

The crisis we are witnessing in the early years of this millennium is characterised by permanent wars, civil wars both latent and actual,

**Bulletin of the
Communist Workers' Organisation
affiliate of the Internationalist
Communist Tendency**

No 20 May 1st 2011

inter-bourgeois faction fights and imperialist conflicts in every corner. First in Afghanistan and Iraq, next in the Maghreb and the Middle East, including the Arabian peninsula, then in Sudan, Chad, Mali and the Ivory Coast. This is capitalism the profit machine, the instrument of exploitation, the producer of misery and war in order to maintain itself as the dominant economic form to the advantage of the ruling class.

Never before has the slogan "Workers of the World unite" been so vital and necessary as in this period. The workers of the Maghreb have to struggle against their respective corrupt and dictatorial ruling classes who have reduced them to starvation. The European working class have to struggle against those who are dismantling the welfare state, increasing exploitation, and who are creating the unemployment and poverty of the "new poor". But the class struggle can never stop at that stage. We cannot limit ourselves to getting rid of the dictator of the time, or the home government, without questioning capitalist relations of production. They are what lie behind the economic crisis as well as the governments which administer them. So much anger and readiness to struggle has to become a reciprocal solidarity between the various workers on both sides of the Mediterranean. Even when the dictators have been chased out and the ministerial changes in the government have been made, the crisis remains, as well as the imperialist tensions. Wars too will go on as before because the factors which caused them remain intact and still operating. The workers from Washington to Beijing must also raise their heads against both fake democracy and the very false communism. Faced with a never-ending crisis, against growing world poverty, against the proliferation of the massacres of war, against increasingly disastrous environmental devastation due to this absurd mode of production, today the imperative is to give an international meaning to these struggles with a common political dimension which has anti-capitalism at its heart. But if all this is absolutely necessary for a real revival of struggle it is not sufficient if an alternative social project, a clear programme which has a coherent strategy and tactic is missing. In short if a class party, the revolutionary party is missing. Otherwise any attempt at revolt, any social struggle whether economic or political will be absorbed within the system which produced it without leaving a minimal trace for the future. It would be as the proverb says; everything changes, in order that everything remains the same.

THIS IS WHY THIS FIRST OF MAY MUST NOT BE THE Nth USELESS "FESTIVAL OF LABOUR" AT A TIME WHEN THERE IS NO WORK, OR WHAT THERE IS, IS DEEPLY DEGRADING. INSTEAD LET'S MAKE IT THE STIMULUS FOR A REVIVAL OF CLASS STRUGGLE TO ABOLISH WAGE SLAVERY.

Internationalist Communist Tendency

May 1 2011

...Meanwhile in the UK

Workers face draconian cuts to pensions, welfare benefits, hospitals and public services in general. In short, a head-on assault on present and future living standards. In the wake of the TUC's 'March for the Alternative' opposition to the cuts has been dispersed to localities and fragmented sector by sector. So far, at any rate, there is no sign of a general groundswell of workers prepared to act and fight outside the unions' suffocating frame. So we have the familiar picture of strike ballots in the offing (teachers, civil servants) ... leading to the possibility of 'strike action' ... by one group of workers and then another ... maybe for a day ... if it's not postponed by the union leadership...

This phoney war cannot go on indefinitely. The economic crisis is certainly here to stay and at this stage — when the capitalists are up to their ears in debt and when they have little room for manoeuvre — it is difficult for anyone to pretend that workers are sharing in the 'growth' on which the capitalist vampire depends.

In January Mervyn King, (Governor of the Bank of England) predicted that VAT increases and general inflation would mean, "in 2011 real wages are likely to be no higher than they were in 2005. One has to go back to the 1920s to find a time when real wages fell over a period of six years."

He is wrong. Real wages have been falling since 1973. Inflation is rising and real wages are falling but the powers-that-be are in denial. One of the reasons for this is that they are scared of putting up interest rates and instantly attacking the privatised 'property-owning' British worker where it hurts directly: the mortgage payment. Sooner or later

though the tactic of direct attacks on the weak and vulnerable whilst the majority face the slow erosion of health and welfare provision, accompanied by gradual belt-tightening for now and the promise of an old age in penury... will become something much more unbearable, an intolerable misery which has to be resisted...

In the meantime the political parties of Westminster provide plenty of diversions. At the moment the 'debate' over alternative voting is supposed to attract 'voters' disillusioned with the present political set-up to take an interest in what's going on. The Con-Lib coalition is showing the first signs of cracking. Not over the draconian cuts in public spending which all parties were unanimous in implementing (Labour disagree only on timing), but over how best to involve the working class in choosing a party to rule over them from one parliament to the next.

As the global capitalist crisis develops the onus is on those workers who see there is no future within capitalism to combine. Without a clear revolutionary programme the struggles which workers will have to mount in future will be beaten down and fizzle out. Otherwise, as in North Africa and the Middle East today, they will be diverted into racism, nationalism, religious fundamentalism or some other ideology suited to exploitation and further wars. We have to strengthen the voice of those of us who can see a revolutionary alternative to capitalism. This can only be communism: By this we do not mean the sort of state capitalist regimes which existed in Eastern Europe etc. We hold to Marx's original vision of a community of freely associated producers without states, national frontiers, exploitation and money, run by workers themselves. If you share this view we'd like to hear from you.

CWO

CWO Public Meeting

Capitalism threatens us with permanent war, massive reductions in living standards and environmental catastrophe. It has long passed the time when it was progressive or useful for the bulk of humanity.

The big problem though is:

How Can We Overcome Capitalism?

To discuss this and a whole range of political issues the Communist Workers' Organisation is hosting a meeting on

Saturday 21 May 2011

at

**The Lucas Arms
245A Grays Inn Road
LONDON
WC1X 8QY**

Meeting starts at 2.00 pm
All Welcome

The Communist Workers' Organisation was founded in 1975 and joined with the Internationalist Communist Party (Italy) to form the International Bureau for the Revolutionary Party in 1983. Stemming from the Italian Left which had fought the degeneration of the Comintern in the 1920s as well as the process of "bolshevisation" (i.e. Stalinism) imposed on the individual communist parties, the Internationalist Communist Party was the only significant organisation to emerge in the Second World War (1943) condemning both sides as imperialist. In 2009, in recognition of the new elements that had joined the founding groups, the IBRP became the Internationalist Communist Tendency.

We are for the revolutionary party but we are not that Party. Nor are we the only basis for the party which will emerge from future workers' struggles. Our aim is to be part of that process by participating in all the struggles of the class that we can with the aim of linking the immediate struggle of the class with its long term historic programme — communism.

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